



Examiners' Report

June 2023

GCSE Religious Studies B 1RB0 1G

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Introduction

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Sikhism, its beliefs and teachings on life, specifically within families and with regard to creation.

This approach encourages students to reflect upon the links between beliefs and teachings of Sikhism and the topics of families and creation which are an important part of life today.

There are four sections: Sikh Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Sikh life, and Matters of Life and Death. The details of the assessment content is provided in the specification. Centres are advised to use this rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

Section 1, Sikh beliefs were on the whole well answered, with sound knowledge and key Sikh terms used throughout, especially AO1 questions. The AO2 questions were not answered so much in depth, although the knowledge was there. The candidates are beginning to start to critically analyse the statement using various techniques, although there needs to be more chains of reasoning and a justified conclusion in order for candidates to gain the higher levels. Candidates should compare and contrast the areas of ethics within Sikhism and non-religious views when asked. Candidates should also look at divergent views within Sikhism in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

Section 2, Marriage and Family were well answered especially the AO1 questions on marriage and divorce. Candidates needed to use more Sikh appropriate knowledge to the extra mark for the question on contraception. The specification gives guidance on where the source of wisdom is from, in this case the Sikh missionary society.

Section 3, Living the Sikh Life was on the whole well answered, with sound knowledge and key Sikh terms used throughout. The AO2 question was not well answered with a lack of alternative views.

Section 4, Matters of Life and Death was answered quite well, however the question relating to the value of the universe was poorly answered with a lot of candidates just writing one point worthy of credit.

Sources of wisdom must be used that are appropriate to the question and not just 'random quotes' that the candidate has learnt.

Question 1 (a)

Candidates are asked to 'outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of one mark.

On the whole this was well answered with candidates including excellent knowledge of the Mool Mantar and why it is important for Sikhs.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list. An example: Outline 3 characteristics of God:

God is creator (1 mark)

God is creator, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)

God is creator, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)

Busy, distant and God is creator, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)

Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)

Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)

Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

The candidate was awarded two marks.

1 (a) Outline **three** reasons why the Mool Mantar is important for Sikhs.

(3)

One reason why the mool mantra is important for sikhs is it teaches how God is Ik Onkar.
Another reason why the mool mantra is important for sikhs is it teaches them how God is Ajooni.
A final reason why the mool mantra is important for sikhs is it teaches them about the sangat.



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Examiner Comments

It teaches how God is Ik Onkar

It teaches that God is ajooni

The last comment is not about the Mool Mantar, however if the candidate wrote: it is used in the sangat or it is recited in the sangat, then it could be credited.

The candidate was awarded 3 marks.

It describes God

Is said before all prayers

Recited before amrit ceremonies

1 (a) Outline **three** reasons why the Mool Mantar is important for Sikhs.

(3)

One reason why the mool mantar is important to Sikhs is because it describes God.

Another reason why the mool mantar is important to Sikhs is because it is said before all prayers.

A final reason the mool mantar is important to Sikhs is because it is recited before amrit ceremonies.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave three accurate reasons

It describes God

Is said before all prayers

Recited before amrit ceremonies



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Examiner Tip

It is useful if the candidate makes three separate sentences.

Question 1 (b)

This question was well answered and candidates had sound knowledge of how a Sikh can eliminate haumai. Performing sewa was one of the main ways mentioned.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Sikh can eliminate haumai.

One way Sikhs can eliminate haumai is by ⁽⁴⁾ doing sewa. This allows Sikhs to be selfless as they are serving others and less egoistic.

Another way Sikhs can eliminate haumai is by meditating and reciting Wageguru's name (Nam Japna). This allows them to become Gurmukh (God-centred) and eliminates haumai.



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Examiner Comments

Two developed reasons were given.

By doing sewa which allows Sikhs to be selfless as they are serving others and less egoistic.

By meditating and reciting Wageguru's name. This allows them to become Gurmukh.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should separate their ways, as in this example, as it makes it clear that two ways were given.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** ways a Sikh can eliminate haumai.

(4)

The one way a Sikh can eliminate haumai is by doing Sewa. This could include serving food during langar.

Another way a Sikh can eliminate haumai is by praying. Praying to God shows your connection to God and ^{helps to} get rid of ones egoistic views.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed ways.

Sewa and praying.

Question 1 (c)

Candidates had sound knowledge of the sangat. Some struggled with the source of wisdom, however, a lot of candidates used a paraphrase of 'true congregation', which is credit worthy.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' of (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom as quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom:

The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.

If examiners are unsure, they will use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and 'Bible' or 'Christian teaching'.

If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (Guru Granth Sahib 15) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.

If a candidate quotes Guru Nanak and it was Guru Gobind Singh or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why a Sikh may believe the sangat is important.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why a Sikh may believe sangat is important is that it can influence you within your daily life. This means that with a good sangat, you can become Gurmukh (god centered), and reach mukhti.

Another reason why sangat is important is that if you with right sangat, you are able to develop your understanding. For example, in Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, it says "to join the sadh sangat". This means to join the true congregation, this sangat should be able to help you spiritually develop.



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Examiner Comments

Two reasons were given with an appropriate source of wisdom.

Sangat can influence you with your daily life (1) this means with a good sangat you can become gurmukh (1)

If you are with the right sangat you are able to develop your understanding (1) 'to join the sadh sangat' (1) this means the true congregation should help you develop spiritually (1)



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Examiner Tip

Some students attempted to force a source of wisdom that they had learned into every answer. This often meant they did not answer the question at all. The reference needs to be part of the answer.

The candidate achieved 4 marks.

(c) Explain two reasons why a Sikh may believe the sangat is important.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

one reason why a Sikh may believe the Sangat is important is because it helps families around the world financially. They can do this by providing free meals in the langar which is done through ^{charity and ran} sewa. They believe the Sangat is important because it promotes ~~the~~ selfless service. Sewa is important to them because Guru Nanak said "keep the langar ever open".

Another reason why its important is because it- keeps families together. They can achieve this by providing free counselling for the Sikh couples who may be thinking of getting a divorce. This is important because to Sikhs family is a big part of their lives and culture and keeping families together will make the waheguru happy.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two reasons but the source of wisdom was related to the langar and not the sangat.

The sangat helps the families around the world(1) by providing for them financially with the langar (1)

The sangat helps families stay together (1) by offering counselling for Sikh couples (1)

Both answers illustrate an alternative view of why the sangat is important for Sikhs.

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion. There must be some consideration of the arguments, that is appraising the arguments which will help to gain the higher grades. Many candidates gave excellent answers giving reasons for and against but not analysing or evaluating them. Still some candidates used formulas and writing frames which restricted the flow of the arguments restricting the candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

Please note that, neither in the bullet point assessed, nor on the question, are candidates required to give a non-religious response. Candidates must respond to the question asked.

Candidates overall achieved level 2 and some candidates achieved level 3, they failed to deconstruct religious information and critically analyse the statement throughout. Generic answers were given, and Sikh key words were limited. Those who achieved the higher level 2 or at times level 3 analysed why uniting with God is the main purpose of Sikh life in more detail using key terms of gurmukh and karma with some sources of wisdom. Some analysis was shown. This however was quite limited and logical chains of reasoning throughout would benefit the candidates to achieve higher levels.

Introduction

This is a good example of a top Level 2 answer.

* (d) "Uniting with God is the main purpose of Sikh life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

- Gurmukh ✓

- mukti ✓

- Samsara ✓

- manmouh.

- Those who fall into
lustful desires will
have eternal
reincarnation.

- 'selfless service

eternal peace is

obtained'

(15)

Some Sikhs may agree with this statement because it is mentioned in the Guru Granth Sahib (GGS) numerous times, reminding Sikhs to follow the virtues and live a life of contentment to receive good karma and eventually break the cycle of Samsara to reunite with the Ik Onkar. There are many ways to do this and the good actions all lead to the reward of uniting with God.

Some Sikhs may be more focused on becoming Gurmukh compared to others, in the Gurdwara, langar is hosted every week which consists of Tan Sewa (selfless service) in the Guru Granth Sahib it is stated, 'Through selfless service eternal peace is obtained'; this implies that many Sikhs live this life committed to God in hope of reuniting with him, they could do this through selfless service which is easily accessible by taking part with Sewa gives good karma and good karma leads to a good rebirth. If you be reborn as an animal you have gone further away from being Gurmukh compared to a human life. This is a strong argument because 'eternal peace' suggests a continuous happiness.

which could be enough for a Sikh to devote his life to Waheguru. Being a human already implies that you are closer to achieving mukti than another creation of God.

Some Sikhs may disagree with the statement and believe that the life has more than one purpose and have a vaster reasoning.

This could perhaps consist of similar ideas as someone agreeing but have broader purposes. Some Sikhs may fall into the vices and perhaps become manmukh leading to bad rebirth but they could potentially repent and become closer to Waheguru ^{once} ~~one~~ again. They could argue that spreading the Sikh religion is ~~the~~ also a purpose of life as in the past 50 Sikh missionaries were sent to spread the GGS. Furthermore, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life for ~~&~~ his faith showing us that he ~~was~~ had strong faith and wanted to show his commitment to show the people that Sikhs are committed. This is a weaker argument because ~~&~~ reuniting with Waheguru is the not comparable, majority of good actions increases your chances so everything you do impacts the chance of becoming gurmukh.

In conclusion it is clear that this statement is true because all actions impact the chances of reuniting with ~~Waheguru~~ the eternal guru. Sikhs aim to achieve gurmukh and their decisions on life will have an impact on their reincarnation.



The candidate receives Level 2 – 6 marks plus 3 SPaG marks.

The candidate gives two sides of the argument that are developed, demonstrating an understanding of the different viewpoints within Sikhism.

The answer shows good knowledge with some superficial reasoning.

To gain a higher mark within the level the candidate needs to ensure the argument presented should give 'chains of reasoning'. A 'chain of reasoning' occurs when a candidate makes a point and then develops it several times. They can do this by providing examples, extra information, or sources of wisdom. In a few cases this candidate has but not consistently. The conclusion needs to provide judgements and appraisal of these judgements to gain a level 3.

The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy and uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. The candidates use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 6 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 9 marks



One way of appraising is to explain a viewpoint, then evaluate its validity and why other Sikhs may not accept this as a valid point.

Question 2 (a)

There were some good answers with candidates identifying three purposes of a Sikh marriage, to unite with God, two souls in one body and procreation.

The candidate achieved three marks.

2 (a) Outline **three** purposes of a Sikh marriage.

(3)

One purpose of a Sikh marriage is to unite the couple's soul with God and show commitment towards God. Another purpose of a Sikh marriage is to achieve life of a householder and gristi jivan. A final purpose of a Sikh marriage is to bring raise children into the Sikh faith and educate and expand the Sikh community.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave three valid purposes of marriage.

Unite the couples soul with God (1)

Achieve life of a householder (1)

To raise children in the Sikh faith (1)

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family. Bullet point 2.6 'Sikh teachings about divorce'

The question asked was 'Explain two teachings about divorce.'

This question was generally well answered. Although there were some generic answers. Candidates need to link it to Sikh teachings.

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, and quotes or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about divorce.

(4)

One Sikh teaching about divorce is that it is only acceptable if one has committed adultery or one has not been faithful to the other. However Sikhs are meant to be married once and for life therefore a Sikh must reluctantly accept civil divorce.

Another Sikh teaching about divorce is that one cannot marry again if their ex spouse is still alive, as this shows ~~disrespect~~ disrespect.



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The candidate gave two developed reasons.

Divorce is only acceptable if one has committed adultery (1) Although Sikhs are reluctant to divorce as they are meant to marry once (1)

They cannot marry again if their spouse is still alive (1) as this shows disrespect (1)



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Examiner Tip

It is useful to separate the two teachings as shown on this example.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about divorce.

(4)

One teaching about divorce is that it should ~~not~~ not happen since when ~~people~~ people get married they connect and become closer with God. But divorce would only sever ~~the~~ the connection.

Another teaching about divorce is that when one partner dies or changes in a way that is bad, such as domestic violence. Then divorce may happen for them.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two developed teachings.

It should not happen as they connect with God (1) divorce severs that connection (1)

Divorce can happen (1) if the partner changes in a bad way (1)

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Marriage and the Family. Bullet point 2.5 'Sikh attitudes towards the use of contraception'

The question asked was 'Explain two Sikh attitudes towards the use of contraception.'

'In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.'

Candidates answered this reasonably well although there was a lack of relevant sources of wisdom.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** Sikh attitudes towards the use of contraception.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One attitude towards the use of contraception is that it should only be used for ~~pro~~ family planning not for lust. Lust is a part of haumai which is what sikhs are trying not to do: "do not (in a lustful manner) look at anothers beauty." As well as this, another sikh attitude towards contraception is that it should only be used for marital couples. Premarital couples are forbidden and so is sex before marriage, therefore conceiving and contraception would be seen as wrong for unmarried couples.



The candidate gave two developed attitudes with a source of wisdom.

Contraception should only be used for family planning (1) and not for lust as it is a part of haumai (1) 'do not look (in a lustful manner) at anothers beauty' (1)

Only be used for marital couples (1) as premarital couples are forbidden to have sex before marriage (1)

Question 2 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion – there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades). Many candidates gave excellent answers giving reasons for and against but not analysing or evaluating them. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting students' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

The answers gave a lack of Sikh teachings. Some of the answers were very one-sided and there was a lack of chains of reasoning. Many were able to highlight the importance of the sangat in supporting the families but unfortunately at times this did not answer the question directly. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse the statement. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The answer should be coherent and give reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question.

This is a good example of a mid-range Level 2 answer.

(d) "The Sikh community is needed to support families."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

yes
most Sikh
people are into
their communities

Many Sikhs will argue that a community is not needed to support families. This is as some Sikhs do not have access to a community but can still support their families in many ways. However, this is a weak argument as without a Sangat it is very difficult to give children the right "upbringing" which is a crucial belief of the Sikh faith. As by teaching the next generation of Sikhs and passing down knowledge is a key part of the Sikh faith which keeps it ~~the~~ going.

On the other hand, many Sikhs may argue that a community is needed to support families. This is as a Sangat can help you "become absolutely pure." This influences Sikhs as it demonstrates that having a Sangat will leave a positive influence on your family. This is a strong argument as most of the Gurus had Sangats with them ~~and~~ and it is known that the "householder asserts faith into family". This influences Sikhs to pass down religious teachings which is often done through having a Sangat to help out with teaching the religion to the children.

In conclusion, the Sikh community helps out families in many ways and is there as a symbol of unity for all Sikhs. Additionally, many Sikhs may feel isolated and lost and a Sangat can help to guide them to the religion and support them in their struggles.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate receives Level 2 – 5 marks.

The candidate gives two sides of the argument that are developed, demonstrating an understanding of the different viewpoints within Sikhism.

The answer shows some links and religious knowledge, but it lacks judgements.

To gain a higher mark within the level the candidate needs to ensure there is analysis of the argument and it is linked to the statement. The second paragraph makes an attempt to do this. The conclusion is weak.

Response: 5 marks



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Examiner Tip

Always read the bullet points so you refer to the requested points of view.

This response is a good example of a Level 3 answer.

(d) "The Sikh community is needed to support families."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Sikhs may agree with this argument, because it to help those in need, is a form of seva. For example, the Guru Granth Sahib Ji says that there can be 'no worship without good deeds'. This influences Sikhs, who may try to fulfill this karam by selflessly serving families in the community who require this help, perhaps in who are suffering or need support. As such, the Sikh community which is built upon these values of providing help when needed and in doing good deeds, is should be willing to provide for some these families. This is a strong argument, because Guru Gobind Singh Ji created the Khanda, being a group of baptized Sikhs that should live by the karam of the Guru. As such, this provides an example for Sikh communities to similarly use these virtues that the Guru has taught them as a way to support families in need. Additionally, the community in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is where one can 'Join the Swadh Sangat... meditate and vibrate on the jewel of the Naam'. This shows that the Sikh community is the best place for Sikhs to receive support from, as it is here where God guides the congregation through Naam. This demonstrates how the community is vital to helping families who need help.

Some Sikhs may disagree with this statement, because a Sikh should rather focus on their own spirituality before that of others. For example, the Guru Granth Sahib Ji states that 'by the karma of past actions, the use of this physical body is obtained'. This influences Sikhs, who will try to earn good karma through seva such as langar and ~~dist~~ reading the Guru Granth Sahib Ji to the Sangat, for personal spiritual gain. As such, the Sikh community should rather try and 'obey the hukam of his command' by first becoming Gurmukh before helping other families.

This however, is a weak argument, because 'Compassion is one of a Sikh's 5 virtues.' This influences Sikhs, as the need to get together as a community and help others such as families and charities, is a very selfless and compassionate act. As such, the Sikh community should provide this support, as it also then allows families to focus on ~~help~~ raising children into the good virtuous Sikh way of life. For example, The Rehat Maryada stresses this in that it is a 'Sikh's duty to educate his child in Sikhi'. This demonstrates the scale of support the community may provide to Sikhs and their children.

In conclusion, the Sikh community is vital to supporting families, as it satisfies all five virtues for a Sikh whilst also showing *hukam*, by helping others. Thus, the community becomes a central place for families to get and receive support.

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points.

They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints as required in the question.

They have made connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question.

The candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements and appraises evidence, some of which is superficial. They write a partially-justified conclusion.

The candidate is awarded a mark at the bottom of the mark range for Level 3 because the candidate meets the demands of the level descriptors for Level 2 and attempts to evaluate but this is very basic.

Total: 7 marks



There are no spag marks in this question.

Question 3 (a)

This question was well answered.

The candidate achieved three marks.

3 (a) Outline three reasons why the gurdwara is important for the Sikh community.

(3)

One reason why the gurdwara is important for the Sikh community is because the gurdwara is where some people go to meet new people, also they can join the sangat.

Another reason why the gurdwara is important for the Sikh community is because families can go to local gurdwara if they are in need of any help.

A third reason why the gurdwara is important for the Sikh community is because it is where marriages get held and families meet.



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Examiner Comments

Three credited reasons were given

The gurdwara is where they go to meet people and join the sangat (1)

Families can go and ask for help (1)

Marriages are held (1)



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Examiner Tip

Candidates do not need to write too much in the outline questions, as long as they write three separate sentences.

The candidate achieved three marks.

3 (a) Outline three reasons why the gurdwara is important for the Sikh community. (3)

one sikh teaching about the gurdwara is that its ascence of ~~community~~^{community}/family. Anothe teaching is that getting the right sangat will make you achieve mukhti. Final teaching is that its a place & if someone is struggling they can go to the gurdwara to seek help.



Three reasons were given

The gurdwara gives a community/family feeling (1)

Getting the right sangat to achieve mukhti (1) an alternative approach

If you are struggling you can get guidance (1)

All give a valid reason on why the gurdwara is important to the Sikh community.

Question 3 (b)

The question was well answered and there was a good use of key Sikh technical terms.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the names Singh and Kaur are significant for Sikhs.

(4)

One reason why the names Singh and Kaur are significant for Sikhs is that it brings a sense of equality to all. Guru Gobind Singh Ji wanted both men and women to be seen as equals due to their role they play in society.

Another reason why the names Singh and Kaur are significant for Sikhs is that it was an order made by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. After being initiated in the Khalsa you are given these surnames to put and to get rid of your family name, so none had caste statuses, to be judged on or be judged on based on their job or wealth.



The candidate gave two developed reasons.

Brings a sense of equality to all (1) Guru Gobind Singh wanted both men and women to be seen as equals due to the role they play in society (1)

It was an order made by Guru Gobind Singh as part of the Khalsa (1) so they can get rid of their surnames so no one had caste status (1)

The candidate has written extra in the second paragraph but achieved the full marks half way through their response.

The candidate achieved two marks.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why the names Singh and Kaur are significant for Sikhs.

(4)

The names Singh and Kaur within the Sikh religion allow for there to be equality among people, within the religion.

Another reason why Singh and Kaur are important for Sikhs is because these names establish you into the ~~religion~~ religion.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two simple reasons. There is no development.

Allows there to be equality (1)

Establish you into the religion (1)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates need to give development in order to gain the full marks.

Question 3 (c)

The question was generally well answered and there was a good use of key Sikh technical terms, although there was a lack of appropriate sources of wisdom.

The candidate achieved five marks.

(c) Explain **two** teachings about the importance of Nam Japna for Sikhs.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One teaching about the importance of Nam Japna for Sikhs is that it spiritually cleanses your body. ~~These quote eliminate~~ and remove haumai. 'Those ~~you~~ who eliminate the mental wickedness... invest nam'. This means that all ego and selfishness is cleansed even your body.

One teaching about the importance of Nam Japna for Sikhs is that it keeps God with you at all times. This is because 'Nam Japna' is ~~saying God's name~~ praying with God's name.



The candidate gave two developed teachings with a source of wisdom.

Spiritually cleanses your body and remove haumai (1) 'those who eliminate the mental wickedness.. invest nam' (a summary of a relevant quote)(1) this means that all ego and selfishness is cleansed(1)

Keeps God forever with you at all times (1) as nam Japna means praying with God's name (1)

The candidate achieved 2 marks.

(c) Explain **two** teachings about the importance of Nam Japna for Sikhs.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One teaching about Nam Japna is that it is a type of prayer that ^{some} Sikhs have to do. A second reason its important because helps the communicate with God and ask him questions on the feet.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gave two simple teachings

Its important as it is a type of prayer (1)

Helps communicate with God (1)

Question 3 (d)

The question was quite demanding for some candidates as they found it difficult to critically assess the statement. Most candidates gave a list of features but did not explain why all gurdwaras should or should not have the same feature. Those that attempted this produced some superficial reasoning.

This response is an example of a Level 3 answer and receives full marks for SPaG.

*(d) "All gurdwaras should have the same design features."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Sikhs would agree, because the Guru has created specific features for a purpose. For example, in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, it says that 'All human beings, high or low ... may sit and eat in the Guru's kitchen'. This influences Sikhs, as the Langar is an important feature of the Gurdwara, as it becomes a place for seva to happen and serving food to all kinds of people despite their status. As such, such design features are vital, as they stand for core Sikh beliefs like seva and equality.

This is a strong argument, because the Guru Granth Sahib Ji states to 'obey the hukam of the Lord's command'. This shows that Sikhs should not change the features of a Gurdwara in accordance to how the Gurus had envisioned, such as Guru Nanak Dev Ji initially beginning the foundations of Langar which was institutionalised by Guru Amar Das Ji. As such, to obey God's hukam is to continue the practice of such features even to this day, as not to go against how Gurdwaras are meant to have been designed. This demonstrates how Sikhs shouldn't tamper with the historical design features of a Gurdwara.

Some Sikhs would disagree with this statement, as as long as there is the Guru Granth Sahib Ji present, this is all that is needed for the Sangat. For example, the Guru Granth Sahib Ji states that 'without Naam he suffers in pain'. This shows how the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, is all that is required to repeat Bani and do Naam Japna with the Sangat. As such, other design features are not required for a Sikh to become Gurmukh, and could be an unnecessary expense for the community.

However, this is a weak argument because design features like the Nishan Sahib and four doors, have historical significance in the Sikh Panth; symbols for equality and the Nishan Sahib being able to identify the Gurdwara as a place for all people to stay. This shows that in order to act upon the five virtues like compassion, a Gurdwara must have some design features that show that everyone is welcome and all people are a 'divine spark', they should be treated equally. This demonstrates how all design Gurdwaras should be designed accordingly to how the Gurus intended.

In conclusion, All gurdwaras should be designed similarly, as it shows Sikhs that everyone should be accepted into the Gurdwara. Moreover, having the same features, means that Sikhs can also perform different types of Seva like Making food to serve, which is vital to the Sikh journey to Mukti.



Level 3

The candidate:

- gives reasons for more than one side of the argument
- demonstrates an accurate understating of religion and belief in relation to the question set
- has logical chains of reasoning
- gives reasoned judgments but in parts these are superficial
- provides a partially-justified conclusion.

The response does not go beyond the lower end of Level 3 because connections are not as developed as they could be.

Detail in the both views is not deep enough to move it up within the level, but it has very good chains of reasoning and religious knowledge required for level 3.

The candidate meets the criteria for 3 SPaG marks because they spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy and use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.

The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 8 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 11 marks



Answer every question – you might receive a mark.

If you leave a question blank, you will receive zero.

This candidate has achieved level 2 four marks and full marks for spag.

*(d) "All gurdwaras should have the same design features."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Through the gurdwara,
the gurus gate-
you have conquered
the world

Takht
Langar
Chauri (canopy)
4 dwara
(15)

~~Some~~ Some Sikhs may agree with this based upon the idea that they would have the ability to prayer and communicate with God anywhere. If all Gurdwaras had the same features such as the Takht, Chauri and the Langar Sikhs would be able to communicate with God. This is a weak argument because as long as there is a Guru Granth Sahib present Sikhs can prayer to God.

Other Sikhs may disagree with this statement and say that as long as it has the four dwara to show equality - then all the other features can be different. "Through the gurdwara Gurdwara, the Gurus gate, you have conquered the world," meaning that the Gurdwara allows Sikhs to gain a close spiritual connection with God. This is a strong argument because the basis of Sikhism is to do with equality, which is what

the four dwara ~~represent~~ represents.

on the other hand, liberal sikhs may say all features need to remain the same for rites of passage ceremonies. This is so all the ceremonies have the ability to gain the spiritual connection with God. For example, in the naam ~~karan~~ karan and the Hukamnama, if Gods presence wasn't there, the Hukamnama wouldn't work the best. This is a strong argument because it shows the importance of keeping the features the same so sikhs can perform their daily duties in a familiar environment.

In conclusion, I think all Gurdwaras should have the same design features to allow sikhs to & spiritually connect closer ~~with to Wahe~~ with ~~than~~ Waheguru.



The candidate has shown:

some accurate religious knowledge

simple developed points

both 'for and 'against' arguments presented as view points

The first paragraph does not fully answer the question as it is about prayer and then the candidate gives a list of features and then tries to link it to how they are used to communicate with God. It does not make sense and is not credited.

They are unable to assess the value of the arguments present and have shown a list of the features and explained why they are useful but not linked it fully to the statement. For example why should the gurdwara have the same design features, they need to link it back to the statement.

The candidate has gained a level 2 – 4 marks

Spag – 3 marks

Total – 7 marks

Question 4 (a)

The question was not well answered. Candidates seemed a little confused on what the question meant by 'value of the universe' so very few achieved full marks.

The candidate achieved two marks.

4 (a) Outline **three** Sikh teachings about the value of the universe.

(3)

one teaching is we should take care of the universe. Another teaching is to show God that you are a good person and care respect what he's given us.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate outlined two teachings.

We should take care of the universe (1)

Shows God that you are a good person and respect what he has given us (1)

Question 4 (b)

The question was well answered and there were some good teachings in relation to euthanasia.

The candidate achieved four marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about euthanasia.

(4)

One Sikh teaching about ~~Euthanasia~~ euthanasia is that it ~~is~~ ~~is~~ goes against God's will. This is because it ~~it~~ disregards the value of becoming a human.

Another Sikh teaching about Euthanasia is that ~~a person should~~ another person should not decide a patient's life. This is because ~~it is~~ ~~it~~ is not their life.



The candidate gave two developed teachings.

Goes against God's will (1) disregards the value of becoming a human (1) alternative view

Another person should not decide a patient's life (1) it is not their life (1) general view but credited.

The candidate achieved two marks.

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about euthanasia.

(4)

If someone is suffering and going through immense pain the most honourable thing to do is ~~with~~ assist them in taking their life. As long as they want to die and are begging for death, assisting them is just.

Killing someone is a ~~fairly~~ terrible thing to do as it is not you who should decide whether someone lives or dies.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The first point is not a Sikh teaching so is not credited.

Killing someone is a terrible thing (1) as it is not you who should decide whether someone lives or dies (1)

The candidate has achieved four marks

(b) Explain **two** Sikh teachings about euthanasia.

(4)

One Sikh teaching about euthanasia is that it is not allowed as God is the creator, preserver and destroyer of life and Euthanasia goes against that teaching.

Another Sikh teaching is that Euthanasia goes against God's will and God's gift of life as God gifted you life and by intentionally ending it you went against God's will.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate has given two developed teachings.

Euthanasia is not allowed (1) as God is the creator preserver and destroyer of life (1) Sikh teaching.

Euthanasia goes against God's will (1) as God has gifted you with this life (1) Sikh teaching.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This candidate has related their answer to specific Sikh belief.



The candidate gave two developed beliefs but no relevant source of wisdom.

All humans have an atma (1) so they when they die their atma may be reborn into a new body (1) The rest of the answer is extra information.

Another belief is samsara (1) which is the belief that the atma can be reborn into 8.4 million life forms (1)

Question 4 (d)

The question is 'Evaluate' this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion. There must be some consideration of the argument, and appraisal is used throughout to gain higher levels. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments restricting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

We are now marking using levels and award a best fit according to the level descriptors.

The candidate showed knowledge on why it is never right to have an abortion but a lot failed to write a non-religious point of view. Candidates should look at the statement and then critically analyse the statement. It is useful to deconstruct the religious information leading to coherent logical chains of reasoning that consider different points of view. The answer should be coherent and give reasoned judgements of the full range of elements in the question.

The candidate achieved a level 2 – 5 marks.

(d) "It is never right to have an abortion."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Sikh teachings
- refer to non-religious points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Sikhs may agree because if abortion means killing that divine spark that Wahe guru gave to everybody. Doing this means you're going against Gods will - Hukam and going against Wahegurus word is like you're trying to battle him which ~~would~~ you could argue makes you a manmukh. This is a strong argument because you cannot kill something when that has Wahegure in it.

Another reason why Sikhs may disagree with abortion is because you are taking away the babys purpose of life away to achieve mukti. What this means is now whoever is having ~~an~~ ^{the} abortion has now gained bad karma from this because they are killing someone that hasn't even lived yet.

A human
~~Some~~ ~~Some~~ may disagree because some
may say that people may not be able
to support the baby financially which you
could argue is a good act because what
else are you supposed to give a baby
without any money. This is a weak argument
because you could just give it up for adoption.
Some ~~Some~~ may also argue that if you've
been raped the abortion is allowed because
you don't really want the baby you
have been forced to have it. This is
weak again because you can just give
it up for adoption.
In conclusion, I think that it's wrong to have
an abortion unless it's rape because everyone
deserves a chance to live.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives Level 2 – 5 marks.

The candidate gives two sides of the argument that are developed, demonstrating an understanding of the different viewpoints.

To gain a higher mark within the level the candidate needs to ensure the argument presented should give a conclusion that will justify it with reasoning rather than the appraisal of the argument.

Response – 5 marks

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Incorrect words or sentences should be crossed out, with one neat line through
- Do not attach extra sheets to your examination paper; write within the booklet pages using the blank space
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, to ensure that the answer relates to the question asked
- Candidates need to know the command words
- Subject-specific vocabulary needs to match that of the specification
- Candidates need to read the questions carefully to ensure that they are answering the question set
- (a) items need to use three full sentences
- (b) items should have only two developed reasons
- (c) items are similar to (b) items but should also use a source of wisdom and authority as a fifth mark
- (d) items ask for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reason given is 'considered' or appraised for its value as an argument, as part of deciding the evaluation
- On (d) items, the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be awarded in the answer, so candidates must respond to all aspects of the question to achieve the higher marks
- Candidates need to look at the bullet points in (d) questions to ensure that they are meeting all the demands of the question and to avoid adding alternative views that the question does not require.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

